



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

MEDIA ADVISORY

Release Number: 26

Release Date: August 17, 2005

CJER Governing Committee to Recommend Proposal for Minimum Education Requirements to Judicial Council

San Francisco—The Governing Committee of the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) yesterday voted to move forward a proposal with slight modifications from the original version regarding rules on minimum education requirements affecting the trial courts based on the goals of public trust and confidence in the judicial branch and internally-generated, ongoing improvement within the branch.

The committee unanimously approved recommending proposed rules of court that include minor changes to simplify the language and a modification to the education criteria that local courts use to approve education programs that would give them more flexibility to approve those programs. The committee expressed a strong collective desire to work within the judicial branch to address concerns expressed during the comment period. The proposal is scheduled to be presented to the Judicial Council during its October meeting.

The following information has been posted to the California Courts Web site: (1) a letter from the chair and vice-chair of the CJER Governing Committee describing the Governing Committee's action on the proposal; (2) comments received on the proposal during the Invitation to Comment period; (3) the staff report to the Governing Committee in preparation for the discussion regarding the proposed rules; and (4) an informal opinion of the State of California Office of the Attorney General concluding that the Judicial Council has the authority to adopt rules requiring minimum education for judges, and that the proposed rules—if adopted by the Judicial Council—would not be inconsistent with statute. Also available for viewing is the proposal, Judicial Branch Education: Minimum Education Requirements for the Judicial Branch.

This information is available at:

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/prevprop.htm>.

The CJER Committee currently has 18 voting members, 2 advisory members, and 4 liaison members. The membership comprises justices, judges, subordinate judicial officers, and court executive officers.